



Joshua and Caleb

Bible Passage: Numbers 13-14

Bottom Line: God's Word is always right and His commands are always for our best. We can trust and obey Him.

Key Passage: ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Big Picture Question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

Christ Connection: *The Israelites rebelled against God because they did not trust Him. Jesus trusted God perfectly. He took the punishment we deserve for our sin, or rebellion against God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Remember This

What You Need: dry erase board, dry erase marker and eraser, paper, tape

What You Do:

- Write a 10 digit number on a dry erase board. (example: 5553017838, you can use phone numbers)
- Guide kids to read the number aloud one time together.
- Then tape paper over the number to conceal it and challenge kids to say the number from memory.
- Uncover the number and allow them to read the number 2 more times.
- Cover the number.
- Ask volunteers to recite the number.
- Erase the number and write 5 random words.
- Invite kids to read the words once.
- Then cover them and challenge kids to recite the words.
- Uncover the words so kids can read them 2 more times.
- Cover the words and ask volunteers to recite them.
- Repeat as time allows.
- Ask kids to tell you the number you gave them earlier. And then the words.

What You Say "This is not a test, but it sure helps us see how fast we learn something right? Studies show that when you read something for the first time, you remember 10-25 percent of it. When you read it 2-3 times, you remember 90 percent of it. Repetition helps us remember! In our stories coming up we are going to look at the Israelites moving into the promised land. God is keeping His promises but the people are having a hard time remembering God's promise and following Him. Let's see what is going on today.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

CONTEXT

Before God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, He promised to bring the Israelites back to the land He had given to Abraham so many years before. (Ex. 3:8) From Egypt, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and traveled toward Mount Sinai. When they were hungry and thirsty, God provided food and water. (See Ex. 16-17.) Israel spent one year at Mount Sinai, where Moses received God's law, including the Ten Commandments.



Time and again, the Israelites rebelled against God, Moses interceded, and God pardoned the people. When Israel arrived at the edge of the promised land, God instructed Moses to send scouts into the land. Moses sent out a leader from each tribe. Twelve men, including Joshua and Caleb, traveled through the promised land of Canaan for 40 days. They returned with fruit—grapes, pomegranates, and figs—and gave a report on the land.

The scouts described the land's abundance, as "flowing with milk and honey." They gave an account of the people, various tribes who were physically strong and whose cities were fortified. Caleb's immediate imperative—"Let's go up now!"—was met with resistance by most of the group. Assessing their own strength against the strength of the inhabitants, they concluded that to move forward would mean certain defeat.

The Israelites complained: "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness!" Joshua and Caleb tried to persuade the people of God's presence and protection, but the people would not trust God. So God gave them what they thought was better. He sent them into the wilderness to wander for 40 years.

TEACHING FOCUS (Numbers 13-14)

We learned about how God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. He led them in the wilderness and taught them the right way to live to honor Him. When they were hungry, God provided them with food; and when they were thirsty, God gave them water. God dwelt with His people and taught them how to love Him and how to offer sacrifices when they sinned against Him. You would think the people would have gotten really good at trusting God's promises. We will learn today that they continued to struggle with trusting God. Our story today is called "Joshua and Caleb."

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- ***No matter what God did to prove His faithfulness, the Israelites always seemed to turn away from Him or believe wrong things about Him.***
- ***The enemies living in the promised land were powerful, and they had strong cities. That was all true. Even so, God is more powerful, and He has the ability to defeat any enemy. God gave Moses the help he needed because every needs help to love and follow God.***
- **BL: God's Word is always right and His commands are always for our best. We can trust and obey Him.**
- ***Every time I choose sin instead of obedience, it shows I do not trust that God's commands are good for me. Even though God has never been unfaithful to me, I am unfaithful to Him. I sin even though I should trust Him and obey.***

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Moses pick the 12 men to go scout out the land? (Moses picked a leader from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, Num. 13:4-16)
2. What did the scouts report about the land? (It was good, flowing with milk and honey, but defended by strong people with fortified cities; Num. 13:27-29)
3. Who trusted God? (Only Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give them the land. The other scouts were afraid; Num. 14:6-9)
4. Was it sinful for the 10 scouts to feel afraid? Guide the kids to discuss the idea that feeling afraid is not sinful. We are humans and sometimes we will face things that scare us. The 10 scouts who were afraid sinned when they doubted God and did not trust Him to give them the land He promised.



5. Why do you think God allows us to go through difficult or scary circumstances? Help kids see that when we face hard times we learn to trust Him. Remind the kids that asking for help is wise. We never have to face scary times alone.
6. How can trusting God help us face our fears? Guide kids to think about who God is and what He can do. Lead them to see that He has promised His people eternal life through Jesus. When we trust Jesus, we know that no difficult situation lasts forever. We always have hope. We can persevere through hard times by remembering what Jesus did to save us.

Activity: Grape clusters

What You Need: small sticky note pads, markers, pencils, Prayer Grapes Activity page (1 per kid).

What You Do:

- Invite kids to get several sticky notes each.
- On each piece of paper, they are going to write something they need God's help with.
- Remind them that it can be anything from a test or quiz at school to a frustrating situation at home to a game or competition with their sports team.
- When they are done writing they can attach it to the Prayer Grapes Paper.
- They are going to take these home so they can pray about it at home.
- If it is possible help show kids God's promises to be with them and help them through Scripture.
 - One way to do this is to have the kids share what they need God's help with. Then, you and other group members can encourage them by talking through ways that God could meet that need.
 - Another way to do this is to have each kid write specific things they will ask God to do to help them. They can write it on another sticky note and stick that to the Prayer Grapes Paper so that they can pray for these things at home.

What You Say Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land. Trusting God is important. Only He has the power to help us through any situation. When we don't trust God, we sin. **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God or His commands.** God sent Jesus to pay the price of our sins, and when we believe in Jesus for life. God forgives our sin and promises us eternal life with Him.

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse dominoes (print a word or 2 on a sticker to put on dominos- make 1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Get kids to find the words to the Memory Verse on dominoes.
- They will line the dominoes up in verse order as they say the words. (You can vary how you set it up each time with different patterns; straight line, swirl like a snake, make a river, circle, etc.)
- When everyone has said the verse you can knock the dominoes down.

What You Say " Our memory verse reminds us that we need to trust God. He knows better than we do about everything! This passage warns us against trusting our own understanding. God leads us to righteousness in Jesus. Trusting in ourselves for righteousness is sin. We saw this clearly in our story today. Joshua and Caleb trusted God, but the other 10 scouts trusted in their own understanding.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:



All Star Kids

April 28, 2019
3rd- 5th Grade

“God, thank You for Your Word. We confess that we sometimes trust in ourselves instead of trusting I You. We know that You are good. You always keep Your promises. Help us follow You and obey You with courage because You love us. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Questions. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands. **BL- God’s Word is always right and His commands are always for our best. We can trust and obey Him.**